

Finally, I thank the South Bend community for continually supporting the South Bend Symphony Orchestra. I am proud to be a member of a community that invests in maintaining cultural diversity through continued patronage of the arts.

The South Bend Symphony Orchestra has achieved a memorable milestone. I offer my congratulations to the musicians, Maestro Tsung Yeh, the symphony's board, the many financial donors, and the greater South Bend community for helping the orchestra complete 75 wonderful years.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR TROOPS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Madam Speaker, poet and capitol tour guide Albert C. Caswell has penned a number of heartfelt tributes to our military, and recently he wrote a piece dedicated to the "magnificent men and women who've given their lives to keep freedom alive."

ALL THEY ASK

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

A young man or woman goes off to war this day,
Followed with them by so many splendidly
fine heroes on their ways. . .
Courageously fine Men and Women, with 'oh
so such magnificent hearts so very
brave!
But, all they ask. . .
As they do not cry, nor do they complain. . .
Knowing full well, that they may never so
see their loved ones again!
With but just one final kiss, with just one
final hug goodbye . . . wishing some-
how to so remain!
But, all they ask. . .
As there they go, upon their most coura-
geous ways. . .
All heading, straight out into that dark face
of hell . . . as do they!
America's finest, her greatest of all patriots
. . . all of whom, to us the word her-
oism is portrayed!
But all they ask. . .
Splendidly fine heroes, who are but willing
to die. . .
Who go where Angels so fear to tread, and do
not ask why. . .
With 'oh such brave hearts, who so dare to
take up our beloved nation's battle cry!
But, all they ask. . .
Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force and Ma-
rines,
All with 'oh so such heroic hearts, there as
seen . . . who just like all of us, all
have the same such dreams!
Who all have families so beloved, all within
their hearts of love . . . carried with
them where they so convene.
But, all they ask. . .
As this the burden they so gladly take,
While, so very unselfishly their own lives
they so forsake!
As this their gifts to God and Country, are of
the greatest sacrifices . . . let none
this so mistake!
But, all they asked. . .
For they are not looking for money, nor are
they fame. . .
Nor, do they even so care if you but so re-
member their most magnificent
names. . .

All for love of country, so stands the reason
why . . . all of these most splendid he-
roes here so came!

But, all they ask. . .

For all they want and all they ask!

Is but, for you to stand behind them forever
there steadfast!

And as the battle rages on, all they pray for
is for your support to carry on . . . and
to last!

That's, all they asked!

A young Hero died today. . .

While, it was he or she . . . who here so
showed us all the way!

And now, as they lower this Most Splendid
Hero . . . this Most Magnificent Pa-
triot into their grave. . .

But, did you give them all that they asked
. . . is that but what you gave?

That's all they asked!

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRO- TECTING AMERICANS FROM UN- SAFE FOREIGN PRODUCTS ACT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Protecting Americans from Unsafe Foreign Products Act.

I have been alarmed by the steady stream of defective, foreign-manufactured products flooding our marketplace. From the millions of toys recalled because of lead paint to heparin, the tainted blood thinner that caused at least 81 deaths and scores of injuries, it has become increasingly clear that our health and welfare have been compromised by foreign-made products.

I am also concerned that foreign manufacturers have gained an unfair advantage over U.S. manufacturers because foreign manufacturers have avoided liability for defective products in our marketplace. Because of the difficulties associated with serving process on and establishing jurisdiction over foreign manufacturers, many Americans harmed by defective foreign-made products never get their day in court. That is why I am introducing the Protecting Americans from Unsafe Foreign Products Act. This legislation would help eliminate the unfair competitive advantage enjoyed by foreign manufacturers and ensure that they can be held accountable for injuries consumers suffer as a result of defective products.

The legislation amends current law to facilitate service of process on foreign manufacturers by permitting service on manufacturers wherever they reside, are found, have an agent, or transact business. Service of process and personal jurisdiction is proper so long as one of the following two criteria is met: (1) the manufacturer knew or reasonably should have known that the product or component would be imported for or use in the U.S.; or (2) the manufacturer had contacts with the U.S. whether or not such contacts occurred in the place where the injury occurred.

Given the increase of imported products that do not meet U.S. standards for health, safety, and quality, and the fact that neither the Consumer Product Safety Commission nor the Food and Drug Administration have effectively prevented the importation of defective prod-

ucts, more consumers have become endangered. This legislation will improve accountability of foreign manufacturers and promote consumer safety, and I urge all my colleagues to join as cosponsors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM, Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, I was not present for three votes. Please let the record show that had I been here, I would have voted: "Yea" on H. Res. 981—Recognizing March 6, 2008, as the first-ever World Glaucoma Day, established to increase awareness of glaucoma, which is the second leading cause of preventable blindness in the United States and worldwide; "yea" on H.R. 5151—Wild Monongahela Act: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places; and "yea" on H.R. 831—Coffman Cove Administrative Site Conveyance Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW YORK COUNTY LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION CENTENNIAL

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. NADLER, Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the New York County Lawyers' Association (NYCLA) which is celebrating 100 years of hard work and dedication in providing services to the legal profession and the public of New York City.

The New York County Lawyers' Association was founded one hundred years ago for the purpose of combating systemic exclusion of lawyers from bar membership on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity and sex.

In the past century, the Association has grown to 10,000 members, earning national prestige for its commitment to promoting the public interest. The NYCLA has continuously pursued the administration of justice through reforms in the law, by elevating standards of integrity and professionalism in the legal field, and by providing free legal services for those in need.

Over its long history, the NYCLA has sponsored countless initiatives that have contributed to the improvement of New York's justice system. The Association has played a major role in the reduction of court congestion, the rehabilitation of delinquent children, the implementation of anti-discriminatory provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, and the attainment of higher compensation for attorneys representing the indigent.

NYCLA has also issued many highly influential reports and resolutions to call attention to shortages of our legal system. These include calling for measures to reduce false confessions in criminal trials, ensuring right to counsel for residential tenants in Housing Court who cannot afford representation, and securing just compensation for judges.

The Association further offers a variety of meaningful Pro Bono Projects that provide

counseling and representation to the low-income, indigent and other persons in need. Included among these are projects that provide assistance to lay guardians with low assets, basic estate-planning documents to low-income persons, and counseling in the areas of family, employment, consumer bankruptcy and landlord/tenant law.

Consistently, the Association has worked to meet the changing needs of legal practice in the 21st century. The Association's highly acclaimed Continuing Legal Education Institute offers attorneys a variety of educational programs. NYCLA also facilitates public awareness and education on a wide array of issues through its forums and lecture series.

Today I rise to recognize and congratulate The New York County Lawyers' Association for 100 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the people of New York and for its groundbreaking work in furthering the administration of justice.

TRIBUTE TO THE WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY WARRIORS

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Winona State University Men's Basketball team for winning the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Men's Basketball National Championship with a victory over Augusta State University (Ga.) by a score of 87–76 in Springfield, Massachusetts.

This victory, which came 1 month ago on March 29, 2008, marked the second national championship for the Warriors in 3 years.

This team's accomplishments are almost too many to list. This was their third straight trip to the national championship. They have won the North Central Region title nine times in a row. They have won three straight Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference titles.

In 2006–07, they broke the NCAA Division II consecutive win record by winning 57 straight games.

In 2008, the Warriors finished the season with a record of 38–1, an NCAA Division II record for most victories in a season by an NCAA Men's Basketball Team. Over the past 3 years, they have posted an overall record of 105–6.

The Warriors were coached to these accomplishments, as well as their second national championship, by head coach Mike Leaf, who has been named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Coach of the Year four times.

This team was led by five seniors—John Smith, Jonte Flowers, Quincy Henderson, Shane Neiss and Brent Riese—who accrued a record of 129–17 in their 4 years together.

Following the 2008 Championship game, Jonte Flowers was named the 2008 NCAA Division II Elite Eight Tournament's Most Outstanding Player, while John Smith was named the NCAA Division II Player of the Year by three separate publications.

Congratulations to the Warriors! I look forward to your next National Championship!

CONGRATULATING AUSTIN J. BURKE, RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 AMERICANISM AWARD FROM B'NAI B'RITH AMOS LODGE 136, SCRANTON, PA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Austin J. Burke, president of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, recipient of this year's Americanism Award from B'nai B'rith Amos Lodge 136 in Scranton.

The Americanism Award honors outstanding community leaders for their dedicated public service. Mr. Burke was selected for this honor by past Americanism Award recipients and representatives of various service and community organizations including the United Way of Lackawanna County, Scranton Rotary and Lions Clubs and UNICO.

Mr. Burke has worked in the community development arena since 1972. He was named president of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce in 1981. At the Chamber, he has worked with area leaders to craft responses to community needs with programs like Skills in Scranton and Leadership Lackawanna. Throughout the country, Austin is recognized as one of the most successful economic development leaders, and we are indeed fortunate that he chose to dedicate his career to serving Greater Scranton.

He was an incorporator of Montage Mountain Inc. and worked to bring Steamtown National Historic Site to Scranton. He has participated in national convocations including the White House Roundtable, the U.S. Chamber Business Civic Leadership Conference and the American Assembly: Retooling for Growth.

Mr. Burke is also a board member of the International Economic Development Council, Commonwealth Financing Authority and the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority.

He is the chairman of the Lackawanna County Workforce Investment Board, a past chairman of the Scranton Area Foundation and a member of the board of trustees of Marywood University. He is also a former trustee and chairman of the Facilities Committee of the University of Scranton which awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1998.

A veteran of the United States Air Force, Mr. Burke received his bachelor's degree in economics from Dickinson College where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He is a graduate of the Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organization Management.

On a personal note, let me express my appreciation for the extraordinary friendship that Austin has extended to me over the years. I am grateful for his partnership in service to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

A resident of Archbald, PA, Mr. Burke resides with his wife, Marianne.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Burke on this auspicious occasion. Mr. Burke's extraordinary contributions to his community have earned him a reputation as a leader among leaders and his efforts have greatly improved the quality of life

throughout the northeastern Pennsylvania region.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel, which occurred on May 14, 1948. On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British Mandate of Palestine and create a Jewish state. On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel. That date marked the success of a continuous struggle for a homeland for the world's Jewish population and laid the foundation for a free and independent state and a symbol of joy and protection for a people that have been—for too long—on the receiving end of oppression, discrimination, and injustice.

Since its independence, Israel has bravely defended itself from repeated attacks. Over the last 60 years, the modern State of Israel has built a nation, forged a new and dynamic democracy, and created a thriving economic, political, cultural and intellectual society. The people of Israel have established a pluralistic, democratic political system, including freedom of speech, association, and religion; a free press; free and open elections; the rule of law; and a fully independent judiciary. Their efforts and achievements have led the American people to feel a strong affinity for the Israeli people based on common values and shared cultural heritage.

This week, Jewish people around the world are celebrating the Jewish holiday of Passover. Passover commemorates the Exodus from Egypt and the liberation of the Israelites from slavery. It is traditional for a Jewish family to gather on the first night of Passover for a special dinner called a Seder. While many Jewish holidays revolve around the synagogue, the Seder is conducted in the family home. It is customary to invite guests, especially strangers and the needy to share with their fellow human beings the story of struggle, poverty, oppression, and survival. I had the pleasure of attending a Seder in Houston with Pastor Kirby John Caldwell and his wife Suzette.

The story of Passover should have a special meaning this year to those who seek to support individuals around the world who suffer from poverty, slavery, and injustice. Let the celebration of the founding of Israel be a symbol to the world of how a people who have experienced oppression and violence can rise to be strong, free and independent.

I am proud to support H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel.